

Amendment to the specification

On page 1, line 3 of the specification please insert the following paragraph:

Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of PCT patent application number PCT/GB2003/05565 filed December 18, 2003, which claims the benefit of Great Britain application number 0229662.2 filed December 20, 2002, and each of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

On page 3, line 11 of the specification please insert the following paragraph:

US6398125 discloses a process for the preparation of nanosized nitrides comprising heating a molten metal to an ultra-high temperature and atomizing the melt into fine liquid droplets. The stream of droplets is then introduced into a second-stage atomizer chamber and further atomized. The nanometer-sized droplets are then cooled and collected as solid particles.

On page 5 of the specification please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

In another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for the production of a nanostructure as defined previously, the process comprising exposing the metal of Group IA or IIA to a gaseous source of the element of Group IIIA, IVA, or VA, optionally in the presence of a transition metal, in a sealed heated chamber at a pressure between atmospheric pressure and a pressure of  $10^{-2}$  Pa ( $10^{-4}$  torr), wherein the upper limit of the temperature is not more than 1200°C.

On page 8 of the specification please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

We have also found that the product only forms if the pressure is reduced below atmospheric pressure. However, we have also found that it is still necessary for there to be a certain amount of gas present in the reactor vessel and it is believed that this behaves as a transport gas. There is, however, a lower limit to the pressure in the reaction vessel and we have found that the synthesis does not progress well below a pressure of  $10^{-2}$  Pa ( $10^{-4}$  torr). The upper limit of the acceptable pressure range is atmospheric pressure.